

U.S. Patent Application No: 10/081,647

REMARKS

Pending claims

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 15 and 16 are pending in the application. The Applicants have amended claim 5 to make it dependent on claim 1, claim 9 to add a feature supported, for example, by claim 1, and claim 12 to make it dependent on claim 9.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, 7-9, 11 and 15 under 35 USC § 103 based on Murata (U.S. Pub. App. 2001/0005854) and Gifford (U.S. Pub. App. No. 2002/0131561). The Applicants submit that claim 1 and amended claim 9 are patentable over Murata and Gifford.

Claim 1 recites “*telephone number data*” added to an “*email message*” and “*a telephone function by which a call operation is initiated to a link indicated by the telephone number data.*” This is shown, by way of example and not of limitation, in Figure 4 of the present application and related portions of the specification. See, for example, page 13, lines 4-12 of the application as originally filed.

Gifford shows a user interface (Figure 2) embedded into an email message (paragraph [0095]). Gifford also shows a phone number in the user interface (see number to the right of ‘Sandra Jones’ in Figure 2 or empty space – to be filled by a phone number- in field 202 of Figure 2). Gifford also discloses a return call service (paragraph [0095]). However, the reading of paragraph [0095] of Gifford makes it clear that the return call service functions upon clicking of the ‘Call me Back Now’ button in field 202 of Figure 2.

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To the contrary, claim 1 recites "*a link indicated by the telephone number data*" and initiation of a phone call "*to [said] link.*" The Examiner will appreciate that neither the number to the right of Sandra Jones in Figure 2 of Gifford nor the number to be input by the user in field 202 of Figure 2 of Gifford indicate a link.

In other words, the phone number to the right of 'Sandra Jones' in Figure 2 of Gifford does not disclose or suggest that "*a call operation is initiated to a link indicated by [a] telephone number data*" added to an email message to which claim 1 refers. Further, the "Return this call" and "Call me back now" functions in field 202 of Figure 2 of Gifford are only performed upon clicking of a button, thus not disclosing or suggesting that "*a call operation is initiated to a link indicated by [a] telephone number data*" added to an email message to which claim 1 refers.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over a combination of Murata and Gifford, together with claims 4, 7, 8 and 15 by virtue of their dependence on claim 1. Similarly, amended claim 9 recites an email adding device that "*adds . . . telephone number data to [an] email message to enable a user to initiate a call operation to a link indicated by the telephone number data.*" Therefore, claim 9 is submitted to be patentable over Murata and Gifford for the same reasons as those expressed with reference to claim 1 above, together with claim 11 by virtue of its dependence on claim 9.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 5, 12 and 16 under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Murata. The Applicants has amended claims 5 and 12 to make them dependent on claims 1 and 9, respectively. Further, claim 16 depends on claim 5. It follows that claims 5, 12 and 16 are patentable over Murata in virtue of their direct or indirect dependency on independent claims 1 and 9.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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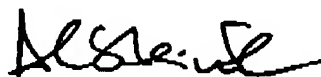
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